

PATENT

Application No.: 09/542,676
Attorney Docket No.: 96-059-1REMARKS

- Claims 16, 19, 23, and 25-27 were pending in the present application
- Claims 16, 19, 23, and 25 stand rejected

Upon entry of this amendment, which is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth below:

- Claims 16, 19, 23, and 25-44 will be pending
- Claim 26 will be amended
- Claims 16, 19, 23, and 25-26 will be the only independent claims

Claim 26 Has Been Amended

On November 13, 2002, the Examiner called Applicants' representative and stated that method Claim 26 does not contain statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because it does not recite a computer. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion that Claim 26 does not contain statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101, and further traverse the Examiner's implication that a method claim must recite a computer (or any other apparatus) in order to be statutory under Section 101.

Applicants respectfully submit that having a "useful, concrete and tangible result" is the only requirement under Section 101. A claimed invention that produces a **useful, concrete and tangible result** constitutes statutory subject matter, regardless of whether the claimed invention includes a mathematical algorithm. AT & T Corp., 172 F.3d 1352, 1356, 50 USPQ2d 1447, 1451; State Street Bank, 149 F.3d 1368, 1373, 47 USPQ2d 1596, 1601. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 26 provides for a useful, concrete and tangible result; the Examiner has not asserted otherwise.

However, Applicants have herein amended Claim 26, in a manner suggested by the Examiner during the Telephone Conversation, to recite a feature of *receiving a plurality of second account identifiers at a memory device* (emphasis added). Applicants make this amendment solely to expedite the allowance of the present application. As Claim 26 was the only subject of the Telephone Conversation, Applicants respectfully submit that all of pending Claims 16, 19, 23 and 25-44 contain allowable subject.

Although Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's examination of Claim 26, Applicants are grateful for the courtesy extended by the Examiner in calling Applicants with respect to this matter in order to expedite prosecution.

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It is submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner's early re-examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees that may be required for this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-0271. Furthermore, should an extension of time be required, please grant any extension of time which may be required to make this Amendment timely, and please charge any fee for such an extension to Deposit Account No. 50-0271.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the present application, the Examiner is cordially requested to contact Michael Downs at telephone number (203) 461-7292 or via electronic mail at mdowns@walkerdigital.com.

Respectfully submitted,

November 18, 2002

Date



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Application No.: 09/542,676
Attorney Docket No.: 96-059-1**A M E N D M E N T****Marked-Up Version**

Please amend the above-specified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** Claim 26 as follows:

26. (AMENDED) A method, comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of second account identifiers at a memory device, each second account identifier being different from remaining second account identifiers; and

verifying that each of the plurality of second account identifiers indicates a first account identifier,

wherein each of the plurality of second account identifiers comprises a second identifier for use in place of a first account identifier.